

CLAIMS

1. In a communication system a method for routing bearer
5 traffic between a 3G network and a 2G network, the method for
routing bearer traffic comprising the steps of:
determining by a first network a local gateway in
proximity to a calling party;
sending the bearer traffic by the first network to the
10 local gateway; and
directly routing the bearer traffic to a second network
in proximity to a called party.
2. In a communication system, the method for routing
15 bearer traffic as claimed in claim 1, wherein there is further
included a step of determining a location of the called party.
3. In a communication system, the method for routing
bearer traffic as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first
20 network includes the 2G network currently serving the calling
party.
4. In a communication system, the method for routing
bearer traffic as claimed in claim 3, wherein the second
25 network includes the 3G network currently serving the called
party.
5. In a communication system, the method for routing
bearer traffic as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first
network includes the 3G network currently serving the calling
30 party.
6. In a communication system, the method for routing
bearer traffic as claimed in claim 5, wherein the second
network includes the 2G network currently serving the called
35 party.

7. In a communication system, the method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of directly routing the bearer traffic includes a step of inhibiting transmission of the bearer traffic to a home gateway, if the calling party is roaming.

8. In a communication system, the method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 1, wherein there is further included a step of routing the bearer traffic from the local gateway through an inter-connect network between the first and second networks to the called party.

9. A method for routing bearer traffic between a first network and a second network, the method for routing bearer traffic comprising the steps of:

5 determining by the first network a local gateway in proximity to a calling party; and

directly routing the bearer traffic to the second network in proximity to a called party.

10 10. The method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 9, wherein there is further included a step of sending the bearer traffic by the first network to the local gateway.

15 11. The method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 9, wherein the step of directly routing the bearer traffic includes a step of inhibiting transmission of the bearer traffic to a home gateway, if the calling party is roaming.

20 12. The method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 9, wherein there is further included a step of determining a location of the called party.

25 13. The method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 9, wherein the first network includes a 2G network currently serving the calling party.

30 14. The method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 13, wherein the second network includes a 3G network currently serving the called party.

15. The method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 9, wherein the first network includes a 3G network currently serving the calling party.

35 16. The method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 15, wherein the second network includes a 2G network currently serving the called party.

17. The method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in
claim 9, wherein there is further included a step of routing
the bearer traffic from the local gateway through an inter-
connect network between the first and second networks to the
5 called party.

18. A method for routing bearer traffic between a first network and a second network, the method for routing bearer traffic comprising the steps of:

- 5 if a calling party is roaming, determining by the first network a local gateway in proximity to the calling party;
sending the bearer traffic by the first network to the local gateway; and
determining a location of a called party.

- 10 19. The method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 18, wherein there is further included a step of directly routing the bearer traffic from the local gateway to the second network in proximity to the called party.

- 15 20. The method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 19, wherein the step of directly routing includes a step of routing the bearer traffic from the local gateway through an inter-connect network between the first and second networks to the called party.